THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Both Government and National Commission for Minorities have received some representations. The Government have taken up the matter with the State Governments and the National Commission for Minorities has urged the State Governments to ensure that the rights of the minorities guaranteed in the Constitution are not infringed.

Implementation of action plan for electricity and cooking Bio-gas

†2487. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether action plan is being implemented to make available electricity and cooking bio-gas, under rural electricity project, to remotely inhabited villages of various States of the country under non-conventional renewable energy projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the names of the States alongwith the number of villages wherein electricity and bio-gas were provided under the said project as on date during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Test projects on village energy security are being implemented for meeting the total energy needs including cooking, electricity and motive power of remote, unelectrified villages/hamlets. 83 Test Projects in 12 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh (2 nos.), Assam (14 nos.), Chhattisgarh (9 nos), Gujarat (3 nos.) Jharkhand (1no.), Madhya Pradesh (15 mos.), Maharashtra (7 nos.) , Orissa (10 nos.), Rajastjan (6 nos.), Tamil Nadu (4 nos.), Uttaranchal; (5 nos.) and West Bengal (7 nos.) have so far been taken up since inception of the programme in 2004-05. In all these projects, the energy production systems include biomass gasifiers for electricity generation and biogas plants for cooking energy.

In addition, during the last three years, 1287 remote villages were electrified in 12 States under the Remote Village Electrification Programme

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and over 3 lakh family type biogas plants were set up under the National biogas and Manure Management Programme.

Financial assistance for energy from NCES

2488. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance for providing energy from non-conventional energy sources in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these proposals have been approved, if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be extended for these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Proposals from State Governments, including Tamil Nadu, for the grant of Central financial assistance under various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources are received on a regular basis. At times, these proposals are found to be incomplete or not in line with the provisions of the schemes/ programmes. Complete proposals are considered and approved subject to budget provision, which is a continuous process.Central financial assistance aggregating over Rs. 20.83 crore has been provided towards various non-conventional energy projects/ programmes in Tamil Nadu during the first four years of the Tenth Plan.

Production of power through sky wind power

†2489. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the possibilities of producing power through 'sky wind power';

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.